

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 28, 2006 subjects claims 18-34 to a restriction and/or election requirement. The Office Action asserts that the claims are directed to two separate inventions: a polynucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1 (Group I), and a polypeptide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2 (Group II).

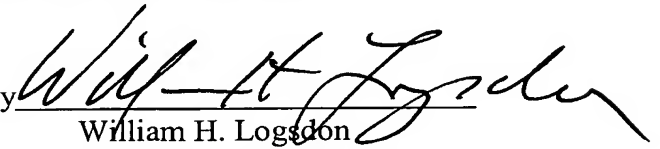
Applicant elects Group I drawn to the polynucleotide sequence without traverse. In accord with the election, claims 18-34 have been canceled, and claims 35-45 have been added to claim a method of using the previously claimed polynucleotide sequence. The Examiner will note that claims 35-45 do not claim a polypeptide sequence identified in SEQ ID NO: 2. The phrase "coding for a polypeptide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2" is meant only to describe further the polynucleotide sequence that is used in the method.

The Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 35-45 are in condition for allowance. As such, examination and allowance of pending claims 35-45 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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